

Saint Michaels' Rectory  
519 East Third Street  
Madison  
Jefferson County  
Indiana

HABS No. IND-85

HABS  
IND  
39-MAD,  
8-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240

## HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. IND-85

HABS  
IND,  
39 - MAD.  
8-

## ST. MICHAEL'S RECTORY

Location: 519 East Third (north side of street), Madison,  
Jefferson County, Indiana

USGS Madison East Quadrangle Map, Universal Transverse  
Mercator Coordinates: 16.641390.4288740

Present Owner: Roman Catholic Diocese of Indianapolis, Indiana

Present Occupant: Vacant

Statement of  
Significance: The Parish of St. Michael's was founded in 1834, shortly  
after the formation of the Diocese of Vincennes, the  
first Catholic Diocese in Indiana. St. Michael's Church  
was erected 1838-39. The Rectory was built circa 1850  
as part of an extensive parish building program. Set  
back at the northwest corner of the church, the stone  
rectory with piano nobile details is a handsome comple-  
ment to the Early Gothic stone church.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

## A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: circa 1850. According to local tradition,  
the Rectory was believed to have been constructed circa 1864-  
66. The building's fabric and stylistic details, however,  
indicate that it was constructed in the late 1840s or early  
1850s. In addition, the plain classical forms of exterior  
and interior are characteristic of Madison architecture at  
this time.
2. Architect: No information available.
3. Original and subsequent owners: Legal description of the  
property: Lot number 8, the land upon which the Rectory  
stands, and lot number 7 on which the Church stands, are  
within John McIntire's Addition East extension of the orig-  
inal city of Madison, platted on June 15, 1826 and recorded  
in Deed Book 2, page 309.

The following is a nearly complete chain of title to the land  
upon which the structure stands. Records cited are in the  
office of the Recorder of Deeds, Jefferson County Courthouse,  
Madison.

1838 Deed, June 15, 1838, recorded June 18, 1838 in Book 0, page 501. John McIntire to Simon Gabriel Brute, Bishop of Vincennes, "for the purpose of erecting on same a Roman Catholic Church."

1847 Deed, September 13, 1847, recorded September 17, 1847 in Book 2, page 439. John McIntire to Maurice De St. Palais "a part of lot number 9 in Block number 8 in John McIntire's Addition East to the City."

4. Builder, suppliers: Madison is a limestone region and many quarries are located here. Similar rubble stone construction is found throughout the city on industrial and commercial buildings.
5. Alterations and additions: One bedroom on the upper level was replaced by a bathroom. A sheetrock partition which divided the parlor into two rooms was removed. A frame kitchen was built in the early twentieth century on the west elevation adjacent to the dining room. A furnace was built into the basement and an outside chimney was built to serve it. The Rectory has been vacant since 1932, though some furniture remains in the building.

B. Historical Events and Persons Associated with the Structure:

Catholic parish activity began in Madison circa 1817 with the offering of the first mass. The creation of the Diocese of Vincennes, including Indiana and half of Illinois, by Pope Gregory XVI in 1834, led to the assignment of a permanent priest to Madison in 1836. The Parish of St. Michael's was founded in 1837 and Father Michael F. Shawn was appointed its first pastor. Efforts to build a church began immediately and involved seeking funds in Canada and elsewhere.

The development of the Catholic Church in Indiana is associated with the migration of Irish and German ethnic groups and the building of the railroad. Roman Catholic settlers in Indiana in the 1830s and 40s were largely of Irish and German origins. Construction on the Madison and Indianapolis Railroad, begun in 1837, attracted Irish Catholic laborers to Madison. Ultimately, a parish was formed specifically to meet the needs of the German-speaking Catholics.

The most famous of St. Michael's early parishioners was Francis Costigan, prominent Madison architect. William Griffin, the engineer who superintended construction of the renowned "Madison Hill Railroad cut of 1837" was another parishioner.

C. Sources of Information:

1. Old views:

Panoramic photograph of Madison, 1866, by George A. Mulvey  
Madison and Jefferson County Library, Madison, Indiana.

2. Bibliography

a. Primary and unpublished sources:

Interviews: Father Joseph Grogan, pastor of Parish of  
St. Michael's, 415 East Second Street, July 16, 1971;  
August 8, 1971.

Jefferson County Deed Records, Office of the Recorder of  
Deeds, Jefferson County Courthouse, Madison, Indiana.

b. Secondary and published sources:

Conry, Thomas P. "A Pioneer Parish of Southern Indiana,  
1817-1837," in St. Michael's Church, Madison, Indiana.  
Rev. Charles F. Walsh, compiler and editor.  
Madison, Indiana.

Madison "Courier," April 28, 1937.

St. Michael's Church Commemorative Folder. Madison,  
Indiana: printed by St. Michael's Church, 1938.

Prepared by Philip Dole  
Team Historian  
Historic American  
Buildings Survey  
Summer 1971

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The severe classical outlines of the Rectory, erected on a sloping grade, is set against the Early Picturesque Gothic details of the stone Church. The plain forms of the structure's interior and exterior are characteristic of Madison architecture in the 1840s and 50s.

2. Condition of fabric: Fair. The building has not been occupied since 1932. Masonry wall construction is sound, though interior surfaces are neglected and twentieth century wooden additions are in poor condition.

B. Description of the Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: The original structure measures 34'-2" (east front elevation) x 32'-2" (south elevation facing East Third Street) with a one-story kitchen and pantry (9'-5" x 17'-5") added to the east and north. Rectory is two stories with basement fully exposed at grade on the south elevation and part of the east and west elevations.
2. Foundations: Unfinished rubble stone, 22" thick.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: Rubble stone masonry, 20" thick, covered with stucco and left unfinished to imitate ashlar construction.
4. Structural system, framing: Load bearing masonry construction in the basement with a central east-west masonry wall, 20" thick, carrying the first-floor joists and upper floor wooden partitions. All floor and ceiling joists and interior partitions are wooden.
5. Porches, stoops: One-story entry porch on east elevation. The porch is supported by three Greek Doric hollow wooden columns and one engaged column. The cornice is plain. All trim is painted white. An open concrete stairway from lower south slope leads to porch area. A wood-framed one-story screened-in porch was added to the north elevation.
6. Chimneys: A northwest chimney connected with a stove-pipe flue. This is the only one of four original which remains. A recently constructed brick chimney is on the outside west wall.
7. Openings:
  - a. Doorways and doors: Main entry door on east facade has plate glass window on the upper half and two molded panels on the lower half. A double-light transom is overhead. The two doors on the basement level of the south elevation are two-over-two panel with a double-light transom.
  - b. Windows: All windows are six-over-six light double-hung sash with stone sills (decomposed in places). All windows except those on the north elevation have louvred shutters.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: Low-pitched hip roof covered with slate shingles. Center rafters are supported by 6" x 8" wooden post which rests on the attic's central partition wall.
- b. Cornice, eaves: Upper cornice on the south (Third Street) elevation is brick with a dentiled rowlock course. Cornices on the east, west and north elevation are wooden and plain.

C. Description of the Interior:

1. Floor plans:

- a. Basement: Full basement extends under original square section. North section is used as a storage room; southwest room was originally the kitchen and is now used as the furnace room; southeast room was originally the dining room and is now the coal room.
  - b. First floor: The main (east) doorway enters into the stairhall with the open stairs against the south wall. All rooms open off from this central stair hall. The waiting room (13'-8" x 9'-3") is to the north, an office (10'-9" x 15'-0") is to the south. The dining room (14'-9" x 11'-6") is at the end of the hall. A door on the north wall opens onto a wooden-framed, screened-in porch. A doorway on the dining room's south wall into the parlor (14'-9" x 11'-3"). A door on the parlor's east wall connects this room with the office.
  - c. Second floor: Two small bedrooms are on the north section and two larger rooms are on the south. Access to all rooms is from the central stair hall.
2. Stairways: The main stair is against the south wall of the central entry hall. It is open with round, tapered balusters and a turned newel post at the foot. A sawed scallop design ornaments the string board. A steep, enclosed wooden stair leads to the basement from the dining room.
3. Flooring: Basement floors are concrete. Upper level floors are wooden, three to five inches in width. All first-floor rooms and the stair hall are carpeted.

4. Wall and ceiling finish: The north section of the basement has rough rubble stone walls and a ceiling of exposed wood joists. Walls and ceilings of the south section are plastered. First and second-floor rooms have paper over plaster, the plaster is applied directly on stone masonry. Interior partitions and ceilings are plaster over sawed wooden laths.
5. Doorways and doors: All of the original doorways of the first and second floors have wide wood trim. Overhead trim is pedimented. Doors are wooden with two-over-two molded panels. A sliding double door connects the parlor and dining room.
6. Decorative features and trim: The large, double-hung sash windows have splayed jambs. Overhead trim is pedimented in design.
7. Heating: The house was originally heated with coal-burning stoves. There are stove-pipe openings to wall flues. In the early twentieth century, a coal-burning furnace was installed in the basement. Metal hot-air ducts carried heat to each of the rooms.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: The Rectory faces south toward East Third Street. It is set back 250 feet from the street on a steep slope. Erected at the northwest corner of St. Michael's church at the base of the tower, the Rectory is placed within a tightly grouped complex of St. Michael's parish structures.
2. Landscaping, walks: A narrow paved driveway leads to the upper level near the first-floor Rectory entrance. A sloping concrete walk on the west side of the church rises to the stairway which leads to the entry porch. A masonry stone wall is against the hillside.
3. Outbuildings: St. Michael's Church (1838-39) and its tower (circa 1860) are to the east. A wooden stable is near the terrace's northwest corner. An ashlar field stone garage and storeroom are built into the hillside, northeast of the Rectory.

Prepared by Melvin M. Rotsch  
Project Supervisor  
Historic American  
Buildings Survey  
Summer 1971

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey in cooperation with the Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana and Historic Madison. The structure was recorded in the summer of 1971 under the direction of James C. Massey, Chief of HABS, and Melvin M. Rotsch (Texas A & M University), with student assistant architects John G. Albers (University of Florida), Bruce E. Lynch (Washington University), H. T. Moriarity (University of Texas), John M. Szubski (Princeton University), and architectural historian Philip Dole (University of Oregon) at HABS Field Office in Madison, Indiana. The data was edited and expanded in the HABS office in November 1978 by Jan E. Cigliano, staff historian. Photographs were taken by HABS staff photographer Jack E. Boucher in 1971.